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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICERECEIVED
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JAN 22 2004

Applicants: Anna Marie Pyle and Eckhard Jankowsky
Serial No.: 09/492,954 Examiner: A. Chakrabarti
Filed : January 27, 2000 Group Art Unit: 1655
For : ASSAYS FOR EVALUATING THE FUNCTION OF RNA
HELICASES

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
August 21, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO
MAY 21, 2003 FINAL OFFICE ACTION

This Communication is filed in response to the May 21, 2003 Final Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the May 21, 2003 Final Office Action is due on August 21, 2003. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the subject application. No claims have been added, canceled or amended herein. Thus, claims 1-8 are still pending and under examination.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Shuman (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, November 1992) in view of Bjornson et al. (Biochemistry, December 1994).

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-8, applicants respectfully traverse, and maintain that the Examiner has failed